

**REMARKS**

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated April 19, 2006 and the Advisory Action dated August 9, 2006 have been received and their contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-35 are rejected by the Examiner. Claims 1, 10 and 34 have been amended. Claims 1-35 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9, 22-25, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,404,239 to Hirai (hereinafter "Hirai"). Claims 10-21 and 26-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,777,275 to Mizutani (hereinafter "Mizutani").

The rejection of claims 1-35 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-9 and 22-25 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "at least one force absorbing edge recess defined in the body that absorbs a force transferred from the second pad." Claims 34 and 35 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "at least one force absorbing recess portion in the body that absorbs a force transferred from the second pad." Hirai does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention.

Hirai discloses that a projection 6 provided on both sides of the TAP 3 engages a notch 3b formed at the flexible film portion to prevent a circuit board 1 or TAP 6 from pivoting about the connection in the opening 3a. That is, in Hirai the notch 3b acts to fix the circuit board 1 or the TAP 6. It does not absorb a force transferred from the second pad. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-9, 22-25, 34 and 35 are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 10-21 and 26-35 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 10-21 and 26-33 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a first force absorbing recess in the body that absorbs a force transferred from the second pad." Claims 34 and 35 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "at least one force absorbing recess portion in the body that absorbs a

force transferred from the second pad.” Mizutani does not teach or suggest at least this feature of the claimed invention.

Mizutani discloses that the printed circuit board 1 includes flat portions 1a, 1b and a bending portion located therebetween. That is, in Mizutani the printed circuit board 1 is bent along the bending portion 3. It does not absorb a force transferred from the second pad. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-21 and 26-35 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.


If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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By

  
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